Why should I use USB Class 2 mode?

Your Cambridge Audio USB DAC will ship in Class 1 mode as default.

In both Class 1 and Class 2 modes, instead of connecting your headphones or 3.5mm cable directly to your computer, you will instead be connecting them to the USB DAC. By doing this, you are bypassing the computer's own internal soundcard and allowing the USB DAC to perform the Digital to Analogue conversion in far higher quality, resulting in a much better sound.

Using the DAC in its default Class 1 mode will give you a definite improvement in sound, compared to the computer's own headphone output.

However, by switching your USB DAC to Class 2 mode, you will get an even bigger improvement, whether you are listening to internet radio, Spotify, YouTube videos, or lossless music files.

The benefits of USB Class 2.0 are as follows;

For Mac:

-   Allows you to play up to 24-bit/192kHz audio files through the USB DAC. (USB Class 1.0 supports a maximum of only 24-bit/96kHz)
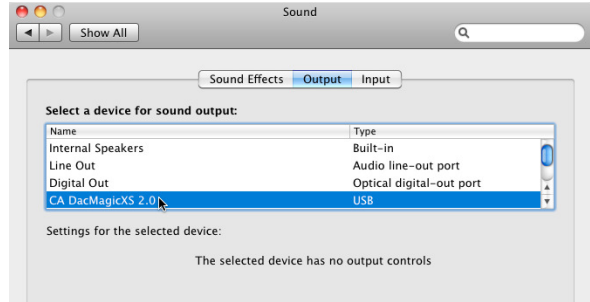
For Windows:

-   Allows you to install the Cambridge Audio Class 2.0 USB driver. Using this dedicated USB driver replaces the standard Windows USB driver and consequently;
    o   Delivers better audio performance (lower jitter) to the connected USB DAC.
    o   Allows you to play up to 24-bit/192kHz audio files through the USB DAC.
    o   Allows you to use ASIO – **see Audiophiles Guide to USB Audio, available on our website**

Cambridge Audio

Using your Mac in USB Class 2 mode

1. Connect your USB DAC to an available USB port on your Mac. Switch your DAC into Class 2 mode, following the instructions in the user manual.

2. Go to System Preferences > Sound.

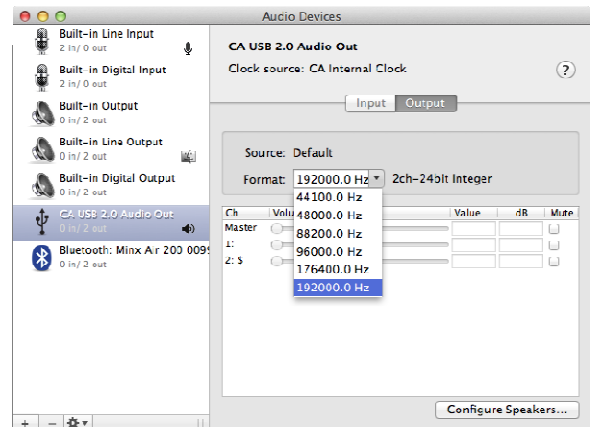   Select the Cambridge Audio USB 2.0 product as the output

3. Go to Applications > Utilities > Audio MIDI Setup.

4. Set the audio output to the desired sample rate.

   Note: there are 3rd party apps available (eg. BitPerfect) that will dynamically adjust this output for you, depending on the resolution of the audio file being played at any given time
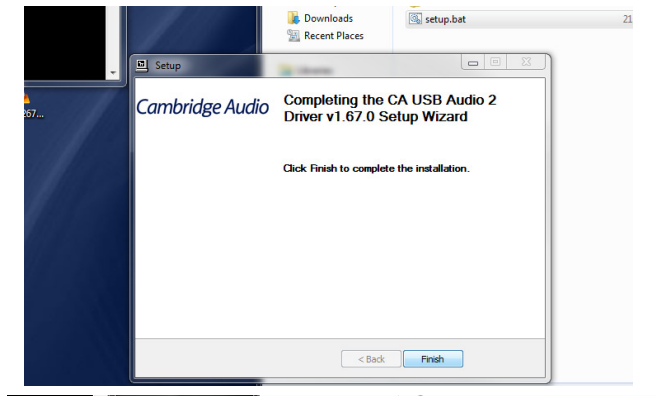
You're ready to enjoy your USB DAC in Class 2 mode with your Mac!
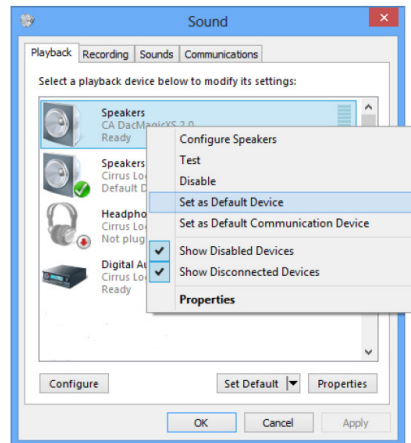
Using your Windows computer in USB Class 2 mode

2. Connect your USB DAC to an available USB port on your computer. Switch your DAC into Class 2 mode, following the instructions in the user manual.

2. Install the Cambridge Audio Windows 2.0 USB driver, following the instructions provided on the website.
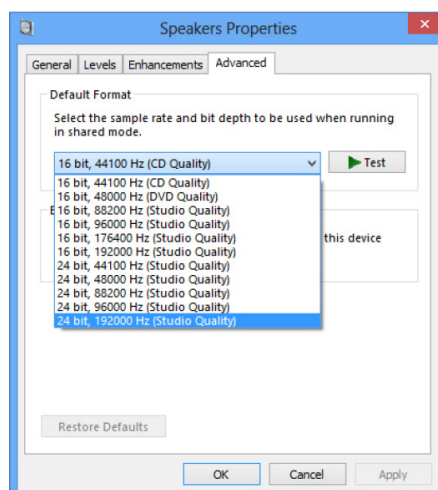
7. Go to the Sound menu in Control Panel, Set the Cambridge Audio USB 2.0 product as the default output device

8. If desired, go to the Speakers Properties of the Cambridge Audio USB 2.0 device and chose the desired sample rate output

   Note: there are 3rd party media players available (eg. foobar2000) that use ASIO and will dynamically adjust this output for you, depending on the resolution of the audio file being played at any given time

You're ready to enjoy your USB DAC in Class 2 mode with your Windows computer!

To use ASIO, please see the Windows ASIO setup guide on our website for an example installation